(e) An amount of Rs. 3.00 crore in the central budget and Rs. 3.50 crore in the State budget are the proposed allocations for 2003-04. However, release of funds shall be subject to progress of projects and utilization of earlier released funds.

Monkey menace

3218. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the moneky menace in Delhi is assuming grave proportions with attacks on women and children in selected areas;

(b) whether the Supreme Court had ordered, on a suit filed by an NGO, for action by civil authorities for elimination of stra animals from the city;

(c) whether the neighbouring States U.P. and Madhya Pradesh have agreed to keep Delhi monkeys in their jungles; and

(d) the steps being proposed to end monkey menace in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) A few stray cases have been reported in a section of press.

(b) Hon'ble Supreme Court has observed that effective steps for containing the menace of monkeys, stray dogs and cattle need to be taken in National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The civic agencies of Delhi/New Delhi have taken steps to catch monkeys. A Monkey shelter has been constructed at Rajokari for giving shelter to the captured monkeys and for their medical treatment before their translocation to forest area. 200 of the captured monkeys have already been translocated to the forest area of Uttar Pradesh.

Encroachment of forest land

†3219. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of the orders issued by the Supreme Court in 1996, the number of persons, who encroach the forest land illegally in the country, is increasing;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any action to deal with this problem;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the fact that the encroachment by human is considered main cause of the extinction of species of animals; and

(d) if so, the details of measures being taken by Government to prevent it in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) As per the information received from various State/Union Territory Governments, about 13.5 lakh hectare of forest land is under encroachment in the country. In compliance with the Supreme Court's Order, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued directions in May and October, 2002 to various State/UT Governments to evict the in-eligible encroachers from the forest lands in a time bound manner as per the guidelines issued in September, 1990 after consultation with the States. further, State/UT Government have been requested to monitor the eviction process at the highest level and to fix responsibility for inaction on the officials. As per the reports received from nine States/UTs, encroachments have been evicted from about 96000 hectare of forest land so far during last one year.

(c) and (d) Biotic pressure on forests increases with encroachment on forest lands. Though, encroachment may not be the direct and the main cause of extinction of animal species, however it certainly makes flora and fauna vulnerable for extinction. Government is committed to remove all ineligible encroachments from forest lands and protected area with the help of the State/UT Governments in accordance with the law.

Forest fire in Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh

3220. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA :
SHRI LALU PRASAD :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the large part of forests in Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh were affected by severe forest fire during this summer;

(b) whether Government propose to make a long term strategy to prevent recurrence of this loss of National property in future; and